Dragon Knights

Mineko Ohkami

9

CONTENTS

DRAGON KNIGHTS (WIND DRAGON) 5
MY LIFE 188

Brought To You By:
Bloomb Scans
(^)
=(^_^)=
"(")(")

AT LEAST HIS SENSE OF TASTE IS INTACT.
IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE CRUNCHY?
THIS IS REALLY BAD!
UGH! STILL ...

...WITH KAI-STEIN?
WHAT'S WRONG ...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT'S GOOD FOR YOU
HAVE YOU ACTUALLY TASTED IT?
NO,
THAT'S FUNNY... I MAKE HIM MY SPECIAL PORRIDGE EVERY-DAY
IS IT A COLD?
YOUR POR-RIDGE IS THE PROB-LEM!
WELL, YOU SEE

THAT PORRIDGE WAS GOING TO BE THE DEATH OF ME.
THANK YOU... CESIA
WHAT A PAIN.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO EAT IT, YOU KNOW.
KAI-STERN
...DOES RATH HAVE INFORMATION HE CAN USE AGAINST YOU?
BUT IT'S HARD TO SAY NO WHEN RATH STARTS ACTING ALL SWEET AND INNOCENT.
I KNOW.
RATH IS HARDLY INNOCENT
THE WORST INFORMATION POSSIBLE.

OF COURSE I AM.
OF COURSE YOU ARE NOT!
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUSLY GONNA MAKE KAI-STERN EAT THAT, ARE YOU?
WASTE NOT WANT NOT I STILL HAVE A WHOLE POT FULL OF...
WAIT JUST A MINUTE!
OH, FINE!
I'LL MAKE A NEW BATCH. THIS TIME I'LL GO EASY ON THE SARDINES.
WAIT FOR ME IN THE KITCHEN
YES, MA'AM.
I DON'T THINK SO! NOT UNTIL I CAN GIVE YOU A FEW COOKING TIPS, AT LEAST.

てってってってっ
すったったったっ
とことことこ
FIRE?!
SO, HE IS...
HERE. RICE AND TEA.
YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF SO HARD. THE DRAGON TRIBE MAY BE SPECIAL, BUT YOU'RE STILL MORTAL, KAISTERN.
AND I'D BE WISE TO REMEMBER THAT I WASN'T ORIGINALLY PART OF THE DRAGON TRIBE.
KNOW

WELL...
IT'S COMPLICATED.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I'D JUST HATE TO USE UP ALL THEIR EXPENSIVE HERBS.
MAYBE I SHOULD STOP SUBSTITUTING THINGS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW DISGUSTING THIS TASTES.
HUH?
MUST BE THE INGREDIENTS.

I WASN'T A STRONG WARRIOR.
MY POWERS HAVE SAVED MY LIFE QUITE A FEW TIMES.
HMM
WITH THE POWER OF THE BLUE DRAGON CRYSTAL, I BECAME A DRAGON OFFICER AND PART OF THE TRIBE.
HOW MANY WERE ORIGINALLY PART OF THE DRAGON TRIBE?
SO THERE'S A HUMAN, A FAERIE.
RATH WAS ORIGINALLY A HUMAN TOO, RIGHT?
I'M ONE OF THE YOUNGEST BELIEVERS.
HMM...
I DON'T KNOW!
I KNOW!
IT'S THE SAME WITH DEMONS. NOT THAT YOU'D WANT TO MARRY A DEMON...
DEMONS...
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU WERE A DEMON.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
THE WIND SORCERESS.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, FORGET ABOUT GETTING MARRIED
NO ONE AGES SO THEY'VE PROBABLY FORGOTTEN.

IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO
I HAD A CAREFREE LIFE AS A DRIFTER.
I WAS JUST A... NORMAL HUMAN.
REALLY ?
WITHOUT KNOWING WHO HE WAS, I BECAME FRIENDS WITH LORD LYKOULEON.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I WAS AT ONE TIME HUMAN...
FOR SOME REASON, I WAS A CANDIDATE TO ACCEPT THE BLUE DRAGON CRYSTAL.
—THAT I OCCASIONALLY LET MY EMOTIONS GET THE BETTER OF ME.
I'M NOT STOIC LIKE THE FAERIE OR OTHER DRAGON TRIBE MEMBERS.

IN FACT, I'M KEEPING SOMETHING FROM RATH RIGHT NOW...
YES ...
I'M AFRAID I CAN.
OOPS.
IT'S NOTHING BIG, REALLY.
I...
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOME-THING.
OKAY...
..WHAT IS IT?

IT MUST BE THE LIGHT DRAGON AMULET.
YOU FIT IN SO WELL THAT I ALMOST FORGOT.
YUP
REALLY ?
I'VE HAD TO ADAPT TO BOTH THE HUMAN AND DRAGON WORLD. IT HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN EASY.
I WANT TO ASK YOU SOME-THING.
CAN YOU .. KEEP A SECRET ?

I DON'T WANT RATH TO KNOW.
IF HE FOUND OUT, HE'LL FIGURE OUT...
...THAT THE REASON HIS HIGHNESS AND I ARE LOOKING FOR THE WIND DRAGON...
...IS TO KEEP HIM ALIVE.
WIND DRAGON... WIN!...

IT'S SOMETHING I DON'T WANT RATH TO KNOW.
NOT YET.
I SEE...
BUT YOU CAN'T TELL RATH
AND I'D LIKE YOUR HELP
CAN YOU HANDLE THAT?

OF COURSE!
TELL ME.
WHAT IS IT?

MY SECRET MISSION...
IS TO SEARCH FOR WIND, THE WIND DUEL DRAGON

ぱら
ぱら
ぱら
ぱら
ぱら
ぱら
ぱら
ぱら
NO, IT'S NOT OKAY, FIRE! AND AS IF ALL THAT WASN'T ENOUGH, YOU HIT YOUR HEAD ON THE CEILING, GOT DIZZY FROM THE SHOCK, AND..
THEN YOU SLIPPED, FELL INTO A CUP, AND GOT BURNED?
WAIT A MINUTE!
YOU CAME AFTER ME, AND GOT SO HUNGRY YOU CRASHED?
THE GUY WHO WORKS AT THE LODGE?
OH, I SEE.
SURE?
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE MADE QUITE A MESS OF YOURSELF
ぶんっ
ぶんっ
ぶんっ
AREN'T WE THE LITTLE TROUBLE-MAKER?
HUH?
OH, YOU MEAN DITCHING YOU AND ZOMA BACK AT THE CASTLE, DON'T YOU?
けろっ
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SOMETHING, MASTER?
がくり
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH MORE THAN ENOUGH TO LEARN WHATEVER LESSON YOU SHOULD FROM IT. I WON'T RESTRICT YOUR ACTIONS.
IT'S NOTHING, EH?
HER, YOUR COVERS BLOWN
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT
I SUPPOSE IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN
BUT IF YOU'RE HERE, THAT MEANS..
THAT'S DIFFERENT, I MEANT TO COME HERE.
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN HIDING.
YOU, FOR, MASTER.
WHAT'S WITH THE BAND-AGES?
WELL, NOW..
AGAIN?
HOWEVER, HE IS TO TAKE MY PLACE EVENTUALLY, SO HE NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS.
I PROBABLY GAVE ZOMA TOO MUCH RESPONSI-BILITY.

I SUPPOSE.
HE'S NOT TOO HAPPY WITH US RIGHT NOW AS IT IS.
I KNOW THAT.
BUT HE WANTS TO DIE.
...WOULDN'T RATH BE FURIOUS IF HE KNEW YOU WERE TRYING TO SAVE HIM?
BUT...
BUT RATH'S GUARDIAN DRAGON IS QUITE WEAK AND IT'S AFFECTING RATH'S LIFE ENERGY.
YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THIS...
I TOLD HIS HIGHNESS I'D SAVE HIM.
HOWEVER, I REFUSE TO LET HIM DIE.

FIRE...
BEFORE YOU GO...
LEAVING AGAIN?
YOU'RE A BUSY ONE.
YOUR SEARCH FOR THE WIND DRAGON IS TO SAVE RATH?
I HAVE A SPECIAL TREAT FOR YOU
I MADE THIS PORRIDGE MYSELF

THERE'S NO MORE TIME. IF WE DON'T HURRY, RATH WILL DIE.
I'VE FOLLOWED THE SMALLEST OF LEADS.
I'VE TRIED EVERY-THING TO FIND IT.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
I SEE.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND
CESIA...
AS CRAZY AS IT MAY SEEM...
YOU ARE A WIND SORCERESS, CESIA.
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE WIND DRAGON... OR AT LEAST AWAKEN IT.
...YOU JUST MIGHT BE THE WIND DRAGON KNIGHT!
...THE FIRE DRAGON WAS CAUSING RATH'S LIFE AND PHYSICAL ENERGY TO DETERIORATE.
THE FORTUNE-TELLER AT RIMUNE SAID THAT...
I SEE.
IT'S VERY SERI-OUS.
IT WILL STRENGTHEN HIS GUARDIAN DRAGON
THE WIND DRAGON WORKS LIKE THE WIND STAFF.
RATH NEEDS THE WIND DRAGON... IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT WILL SAVE HIM.

...I DON'T CARE FOR BEING A DRAGON KNIGHT...
BUT I'LL HELP YOU FIND THE WIND DRAGON. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE ANYWAY.
YES.
OKAY, KAISTERN...
THANK YOU
SO, THE WIND DRAGON... IT'S THE LEGENDARY BEAST INSIDE THE CAVE ON MT. EMPHAZA?
THAT'S RIGHT. WELL, THAT'S WHAT THE PEOPLE OF YUBA SAID.

THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
YOU CAN USE WIND MAGIC, RIGHT?
YEAH
BUT I'M A DEMON.
DOESN'T MATTER. RUNE AND THAT'Z WEREN'T DRAGON TRIBE AT FIRST, EITHER.
T-THAT'S TRUE BUT...
JUST BECAUSE I CAN USE WIND MAGIC DOESN'T MAKE ME THE WIND DRAGON KNIGHT.
WE'RE NOT SAYING YOU ARE, JUST THAT YOU COULD BE.
WELL, WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE YET!
IN ANY CASE, IT'S EASIER TO FIND THE WIND DRAGON USING WIND MAGIC.
I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE.
AND CONSIDERING THAT I'M LOOKING FOR THE WIND DRAGON ANYHOW...
YOU ARE?

BESIDES...
STAYING HERE AND EATING RATH'S COOKING IS BAD FOR THE GUEST. I MEAN, THINK OF ALL THE INDIGESTION WE COULD PREVENT BY LETTING HIM DIE.
HA HA HA!
I CAN'T REST FOREVER.
ARE YOU UP FOR THIS? YOUR WOUNDS--
SO THE WIND DRAGON WILL SAVE RATH?
WHAT DID THAT FORTUNE-TELLER IN RIMUNE SAY?
"HIS GUARDIAN DRAGON NEEDS NEW POWER. AND THAT POWER HOLDER WILL CAST A HUGE SHADOW..."
THEN... WHAT CREWGER SAID WAS TRUE.

MMM...
I SENSE IT.
SOMEONE'S APPROACHING...
...THE CAVE.

THE BEAST WILL BE THERE.
IT'S JUST A LITTLE FURTHER TO THE CAVE.
THE GUARDIAN OF THE MOUNTAIN?
RIGHT, WE MUST PREPARE OURSELVES.
HUH?
I DUNNO.
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S JUST...
I FEEL LIKE I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING.

THAT CAN'T BE ME.
THE WIND DRAGON KNIGHT?
"CESIA..."
"...AS CRAZY AS IT MAY SEEM."
"...YOU JUST MIGHT BE THE WIND DRAGON KNIGHT."
IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.

YES, WELL.
I APOLOGIZE FOR HIS RUDENESS.
YOUR LITTLE BROTHER... I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HIM.
THERE IS SOMETHING YOU COULD DO FOR ME, THOUGH.
FORGET IT
IS HE A DEMON?
WELL, IS HE?
NO. HE'S NOT.
HE'S ACTUALLY MY OLDER BROTHER.
HE HASN'T AGED BECAUSE OF A CURSE THAT WAS PLACED ON HIM.

THIS IS STUPID!
GOT STOOD UP, EH?
THAT'S TOO BAD. YOU TWO MADE A CUTE COUPLE.
AAGH!
COOKING TIPS MY ASS!
I'M NOT WAITING ANYMORE!
SO YOU'RE NOT MAKING YOUR PORRIDGE TODAY?
I WAS GOING TO, BUT APPARENTLY THE HEAD CHEF HAS FLAKED OUT.
I CAN TEACH YOU.

YES.
A POWERFUL ONE.
REALLY? A CURSE?
WHEN IT FIRST HAPPENED--
...WE DIDN'T SEE HIM FOR MANY YEARS.
IT WAS AWHILE BEFORE HE FELT HE COULD FACE US.

SO, THAT'S THE ONE-EYED BEAST...
KAI-STERN, I SURE HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
ARE YOU SURE?
"...YOU CAN SNEAK INTO HIS CAVE AND RETRIEVE THE DRAGON."
"WHILE I DISTRACT THE BEAST..."
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
I CAN'T GET AROUND THEM...
HOW CAN I GET TO THE ENTRANCE WITHOUT GETTING NOTICED?
DAMN! THAT STUPID FUZZBALL IS IN CESIA'S WAY. SHE CAN'T REACH THE CAVE ENTRANCE!

WHICH MAKES ME WONDER WHY YOU'RE BACK.
IDIOT KILLING YOU BEFORE YOU BREED WILL BE A FAVOR TO YOUR RACE.
LAST TIME YOU NEARLY KILLED ME.
SO WE MEET AGAIN.
AT LEAST, I HOPE SO.
THIS TIME IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFERENT.

I HAVE TO HURRY.
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE THE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS.
I'M SLIP-PING...
OH NO!

GRRR!
WHY ...YOU
WHEN HE GETS CLOSE, I'LL USE POISON!!
GRR

OKAY ...
I'M GOING IN!
CULT!
HEHE HEHE HEH ...

COME TO THINK OF IT, WE DON'T KNOW THAT HE'S THE ONLY GUARDIAN.
I MUST BE CAREFUL.
IT'LL BE OKAY...
...I THINK.

CLEVER MAN.
SO YOU WERE MERELY A DISTRACTION.
NO!
WAIT!
I ALMOST HAD HIM!
A FEW MORE SECONDS WAS ALL I NEEDED!
CIESIA!!
HE WON'T GET CLOSE ENOUGH FOR THE POISON ATTACK.
TO DIE.
YOU'VE HAD YOUR CHANCE AT LIFE.
PREPARE.
HAMPH
YOU'RE A WASTE OF MY TIME.
URGH ...
WHAT?

I WONDER HOW DEEP THIS CAVE IS.
...WHEN THERE ARE MILLIONS OF PLACES FOR IT TO HIDE?
HOW WILL I EVER FIND THE LEGENDARY BEAST?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
FAR TOO LONG. I'D SAY IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU RETURNED TO US.
THAT VOICE!
YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, CESIA.
SHYDE-MAN?!
IT CAN'T BE!
WHY IS HE HERE?!

AND THE DRAGON TRIBE IS COUNTING ON ME!
I'LL NEVER BE FREE AGAIN.
I CAN'T LET THEM TAKE ME.
CESIA ...
IT'S NO USE.
LET GO!

!!
HAHA HAHA HAH...
IF SHYDEMAN IS HERE...
...THAT MUST MEAN...
SHYREN-DORA!!
COME WITH ME AND I PROMISE YOUR PUNISHMENT WON'T RESULT IN ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE.
CESIA ...
YOU'VE BEEN A NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY GIRL—

FIRE...
RATH!!
I NEVER MISS A CHANCE TO BEAT DEMONS TO A BLOODY PULP...
YOU KNOW THAT.
THE FIRE DRAGON KNIGHT!
SO, YOU DECIDED TO SHOW UP AFTER ALL.
WHY IS IT THAT YOU BIG-SHOT DEMONS ALWAYS LIKE TO BE ROUGH WITH THE LADIES?
DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL ALL BIG AND TOUGH?

I'M TURNIN' THIS MOUNTAIN INTO A VOLCANO! IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT... WELL, YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH SCREWED!
ERIN...
R...
RATH!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
!!
WHAT?!
HUH?!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT SHE COULD USE A TAN.
HERE HE...
WHAT?!
IS HE GOING TO BURN CESIA TOO?!
FIRE COLUMNS!!
IMPOSSIBLE!
WAIT

I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO SEE/FEEL BUT YOUR PRESENCE HAS STRENGTHENED MY POWERS.
A HOLOGRAM SPELL?
YOU CAN DO THAT?
WOW, I CAN'T EVEN DO ONE OF THOSE!
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THE SPELL WILL LAST. WE'VE GOT TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT.
WHAT?
REALLY?
HUH? WHERE'D HE GO?
...
HAHA HAHA HAH!
SHH!
RATH?
WHAT'S THIS? A FORBIDDEN PATH?
THIS WAY.
STOP FREAKING OUT.
IT'S JUST A HOLOGRAM SPELL...
YOU WERE JUST ON TOP OF THAT ROCK FACE CASTING FIRE COLUMNS! HOW'D YOU GET DOWN HERE?
WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

SCARY?
GEEZ, THAT WAS SCARY
THEY ALMOST HAD YOU.
I WAS THIS CLOSE TO FINDING THE LEGENDARY BEAST
THEN THOSE FREAKS HAD TO COME ALONG AND RUIN IT!
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, WHEN THIS IS ALL DONE I'LL KILL THEM FOR YOU
BUT FIRST WE NEED TO FIND THE LEGENDARY BEAST
BUT THEY'RE STILL IN THE CAVE.
CESSIA...
YOU WERE SCARED?
THEY'RE NAOIL'S SECOND-IN COMMAND!
OF COURSE THEY'RE SCARY!

WELL, IT WORKED CESSIA'S GONE.
HYDE MAN, WHAT WILL WE...
OUR LITTLE PYROMANIAC WAS JUST AN ILLUSION THAT IS ABLE TO CAST SPELLS.
A HIGH-LEVEL HOLOGRAM SPELL... I DIDN'T EVEN SUSPECT...
I SEE ...
WE'VE BEEN TRICKED.
DON'T WORRY.
LET'S GO OUTSIDE.

SHYDEMAN AND SHYRENDORA...
...AND NOW THE ONE-EYED DEMON?
SO, YOU'RE THE ONE-EYED DEMON?
YOU DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
I WILL KILL ANYONE WHO TRIES TO ENTER...
THE CAVE.
ANYONE.
AND EVERY ONE.

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
GASP!
DON'T WORRY. WE'LL BE FINE. WE CAN ALWAYS TORCH THE PLACE, IF IT COMES DOWN TO THAT.

SOMEONE...
WHAT IS GOING ON?
WHAT ARE THEY MAKING ME DO?
SOMEONE HELP...
GET ME OUT OF HERE!
IT'S SHOWTIME.
UGH...
YOU CANNOT KILL ME.
YOUR DELUSION IS AMUSING.

YOUR BIG SWORD WON'T HELP YOU.
NOT AGAINST ME.
...
IS THAT SO?
...
I UNDERSTAND NOW.
THE DRAGON LORD'S PROTECTIVE POWER DOESN'T REACH THIS FAR.
WE'RE TOO FAR NORTH.
HE'S QUICKER THAN I THOUGHT!!

WHAT? HIS FLAMES ARE AS POWERFUL AS MINE!
IN FACT, THEY'RE EVEN MORE POWERFUL!!
GO!
FLAMES

AS YOU'VE NOTICED, HE'S NO LONGER THE EMBARRASSMENT HE ONCE WAS.
WHEN CIL FIRST CAME TO ME, HE WAS A PATHETIC EXCUSE FOR A DEMON CREATED BY THE ALCHEMIST KHARL.
CIL?!
I TOOK... SPECIAL CARE WITH HIM.
THAT DEMON... IS CIL?

I GAVE THAT DEMON SPECIAL POWERS.
THAT'S AN UNDER STATE-MENT.
RATH IS IN TROUBLE.
OH NO!
RATH!
ACTUALLY I BELIEVE HE'S A FRIEND OF YOURS CEDIA.
WHAT WAS HIS NAME? OH YES. CIL.

HEHE HEH...
NO!
DO YOU THINK THAT GIL WILL KILL THE FIRE DRAGON KNIGHT?
WOR-RIED?
IT'S NOT THAT.
...
HE DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
I'D SAY YOUR LITTLE BATH IS IN TROUBLE.
HE POSSESSES THE POWER OF BOTH LORD NADIL AND THE FIRE DEMON PEDELTA.
SO, THAT'S WHY HE CAN USE FIRE MAGIC.
I SEE...
FIRE DEMON PEDELTA...
...AND NADIL'S POWER, TOO?
YOUR FIRE DRAGON KNIGHT CANNOT POSSIBLY WIN.
YOU MIGHT AS WELL SIT DOWN AND ENJOY THE FIGHT.

THAT BEAST IS GIL?
WHY?
THAT COULD ONLY MEAN
...WHY DIDN'T I SEE IT IN MY CRYSTAL BALL?
BUT

HMPH
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT SHYRENDORA. UNLESS YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOUR MIND CONTROL POWERS AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH.
DON'T FORGET THAT I AM ONLY ABLE TO CONTROL HIS FELINE MIND.
SO CESIA, HOW WILL YOU SAVE YOUR BELOVED DRAGON KNIGHT?
IT WILL WORK.
STOP WORRY-ING.
YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE US THIS TIME, CESIA.
DON'T RUSH. YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME.
GIL PREFERS IT WHEN HIS KILLS ARE SLOW AND PAINFUL.

RATH!
SHA!
GIL IS...
A DEMON?
EVEN THOUGH HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN.
THAT HE ISN'T HUMAN...
IS THAT TRUE?
A DEMON...
THIS IS BAD.
WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN THIS MUCH TROUBLE SINCE WE FOUGHT DARK DESIA.
ONLY THIS TIME THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO...
...WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
HYDEMAN, SHYRENDORA

THIS CLIFF...
I REMEMBER IT FROM BEFORE.
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO KILL HIM. THAT COULD PROVE DIFFICULT.
SO THIS IS THE FIRE DRAGON KNIGHT, EH?
I'M NOT EVEN USING...
HALF MY STRENGTH.
HE'S POWERFUL?
THIS MUST BE A JOKE.
HE HE HE.
THAT PATH DEAD ENDS.
RUN AROUND A LITTLE, AT LEAST.
IT'LL MAKE THINGS MORE FUN.
HE HE HE...

SHAKE
I'M NOT LETTING YOU DIE!
KEEP MY FROM ISEI!!
LET GO
THE BOTH OF YOU CAN
TOGETHER
WAIT!! GIL!
YOU CAN'T KILL THEM!!

GRR
SLIP
IN!
CESIA LET GO
HELL ATTACK YOU FROM BEHIND
HOLD ON TIGHT!
THIS IS SO PATHETIC I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT YOURSELF INTO THIS.

GR...
GR...
GROWL
FIJI!
GET BACK!
THAT'S NOT GIL ANY MORE!!
GIL!
GIL...
WHEN THE SCARY BEAST...
COMES DOWN THE MOUNTAIN, WE LOCK ALL THE DOORS
AND PRAY THAT IT CALMS DOWN.
RIGHT, GIL?
FIJI!!
FI--
GIL?
GIL...
GIL WOULDN'T DO THAT.
DON'T KILL THEM.
HN HN...

THE MIND CONTROL...
...IS UNBREAK-ABLE.
GIL...
COME HOME WITH ME.
AND WE CAN HAVE SOME MILK!
LET'S GO HOME OKAY GIL?
...
...
...

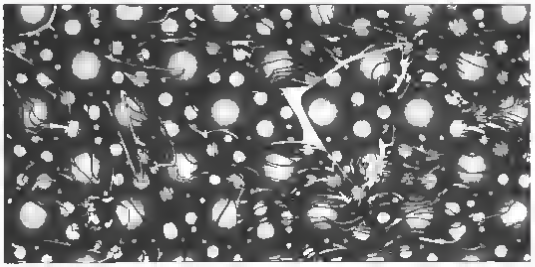
THE OUTCAST DEMON, LAAMGARNAS.

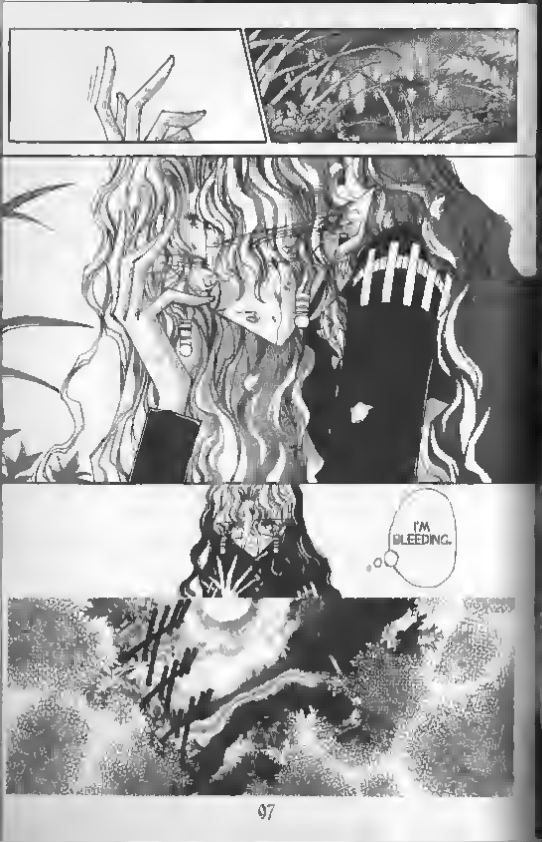
I...
I REMEMBER SOMETHING.
IT WAS AN ANIMAL SPELL SHYRENDORA CAST ON ME.
MY BODY REMAINED UNCHANGED, BUT MENTALLY, I HAD BECOME AN ANIMAL.
UNTIL HE SAVED ME.
FEDELTA'S DEMONS...
...TREATED ME LIKE I WAS AN ANIMAL.

FL..
IL..
FIJI...
FI...
AM I DOOMED TO SUFFER THAT LOSS ONCE AGAIN?

BUT WHEN LAGAN CARNAS WAS KILLED...
...THE ANIMAL SPELL WAS BROKEN.
COULD THIS BE THE SAME AS BEFORE?

オ
オ
CIL...
DO NOT LET THOSE TWO GET AWAY.
15




I'M BLEEDING.

THERE IT IS.
THANK GOODNESS.
PHEW
YOU'RE NOT LOOKING GOOD
STUMBLE
HE'S IN WORSE SHAPE THAN KAI-STERN.
HUH?
OH NO!
THE LIGHT DRAGON AMULET IS GONE!
I HAVE TO FIND IT.

GASP
!!!
I KNEW HE ALWAYS WORE SOMETHING AROUND HIS NECK...
...BUT I'D HAVE NEVER GUESSED IT WAS A LIGHT DRAGON AMULET.
WHY DOES KATH HAVE AN AMULET?

WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S...
...ANOTHER LIGHT DRAGON AMULET?

THAT'S OKAY.
THERE'S ALWAYS ANOTHER CHANCE AT DEATH JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
NOT WHEN I'M AROUND.
YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW THAT I DON'T GIVE UP EASILY. I WON'T LET YOU SQUANDER YOUR LIFE.
I CAN BE VERY PERSISTENT
YOU'LL SOON LOSE THAT CRAZY DEATH WISH OF YOURS.
HMPH...
YOU GO AHEAD AND TRY
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR OWN TIME.
BUT WE HAVE OTHER PROBLEMS RIGHT NOW.
THAT...
...BEAST.

THIS GUY JUST HAS WAY TOO MANY SECRETS.
!
OOF...
WHERE AM I?
WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU WERE LUCKY.
YOUR WOUNDS WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH TO KILL YOU.
SORRY...
BUT I KEEP MY PROMISES.
SO...
YOU'RE TELLING ME I MISSED DEATH AGAIN?

...HAS MADE HIS OWN CHOICES.
GIL...
BUT IF YOU TWO FIGHT EACH OTHER--
--THAT OUR CHOICES ARE MEANINGLESS.
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME...
I CHOSE TO END MY LIFE AS A PUPPET FOR OTHERS.
THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS. NOTHING ELSE.
YOU KNOW HE'S HUMAN AND YOU'RE STILL GOING TO FIGHT HIM?
RIGHT NOW, HE'S A DEMON, AND DEMONS DON'T GET TO LIVE.
I KNOW! I KNOW!
IT'S GIL. HE USED TO BE HUMAN.
THAT BEAST IS--
RATH!
RATH...
AND FOR NO TWO MEN IS THAT CHOICE EVER THE SAME.
EACH MAN MUST DECIDE HOW HE'S GOING TO LIVE HIS LIFE.

IT'S USELESS.
RATH WILL NEVER LISTEN TO ME.
BUT I CAN'T LET HIM KNOW.
WHAT'S MORE I SAW HIS LIGHT DRAGON AMULET.
GREAT. LIKE I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO HIDE FROM HIM.

I DON'T KNOW.
WILL IT SUIT THEM? I MEAN, WHAT'S THE POINT?
WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT BEAST CAN KILL ME.
SO WE'RE BACK TO THIS AGAIN? YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY PATHETIC, RATH.
NADIL'S POWER?
NO WONDER HE'S SO STRONG.
GIL POSSESSES NADIL'S POWER.
IT'S ALL STARTING TO MAKE SENSE.
I WON'T ARGUE WITH THAT.

...WHICH IS PRECISELY WHY I'M SO COMFORT-ABLE AROUND YOU.
NOT TO MENTION A DEMON. YOU'D BE INTOLERABLE IF NOT FOR THAT LIGHT DRAGON AMULET.
YOU'RE A LIAR, A CHEAT, A CON ARTIST, A MURDERER.
WE'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT, YOU AND I. YOU UNDERSTAND ALL MY DARK TENDENCIES...
AND YOU MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO SAVE ME FROM THEM.
AND ON TOP OF ALL THAT, YOU'RE A SPOILED, SELF CENTERED BRAT.
YOU'RE NOT A NICE PERSON, CESIA..
HEY RATH!
I'VE BEEN KEEPING A LOT OF SECRETS FROM YOU.
AND I HAVEN'T ALWAYS BEEN TRUTHFUL...
I'M KEEPING THINGS FROM YOU TOO.
AND I ALREADY KNEW YOU WERE A LIAR.
RATH
WE'RE EVEN, CESIA.
WHAT? YOU ARE?

STINGS DOESN'T IT?
DOESN'T IT JUST MAKE YOU WANT TO KILL?
KILL...
YES. KILL.
THAT'S RIGHT
AND WHO DO YOU WANT TO KILL?

YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR OWN DEMON STRENGTH, GIL.
IF YOU DON'T LOOSEN YOUR GRIP...
YOU'RE GONNA TEAR THAT ADORABLE LITTLE CORPSE IN TWO.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT THE GIRL. SHE'S ALREADY DEAD.
YOU HAVE SO MUCH POWER AND YET ARE POWERLESS WHEN IT MATTERS MOST.
FRUSTRATING...
ISN'T IT?

NOW IF HIS MIND WAS ONLY FREE OF THEIR CONTROL...
...I COULD USE HIM TO DESTROY SHYDEMAN AND SHYRENDORA
OR MAYBE...
...THEIR SPELL OVER HIM HAS ALREADY BEEN BROKEN.
WHO KNOWS HOW LONG THAT'LL TAKE?
YOU NEED TIME FOR YOUR WOUNDS TO HEAL!
STOP!
WE SHOULD WAIT TILL IT'S LIGHT!
RATH!
WAIT!

THE ONE..
WHO CAME TO KILL ME.
GOOD KITTY.
HE'S
MINE.

CESIA
DO YOU REMEMBER WHICH WAY THE CAVE IS?
YEAH
WHAT?
I PROMISE NOT TO LOSE ON PURPOSE, OKAY?
BESIDES
GOD IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO BE MUCH HELP OUT HERE.
KAI-STERN MAY NEED YOUR HELP.
CESIA
THE CAVE'S NOT GUARDED RIGHT NOW
IT'S A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY GO!
WE NEED TO GET OFF THIS ROCK.
LOOK, AS LONG AS WE'RE ON THIS MOUNTAIN, HE HAS THE ADVANTAGE.
I'VE GOT MORE INTEGRITY THAN THAT
LET ME GUESS, YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT HIM WOUNDED BECAUSE YOU WANT TO LOSE.
DO WHATEVER THE HELL YOU WANT.
MAN, YOU'RE A BROKEN RECORD.
I WON'T LET YOU LOSE. I TOLD YOU I'M NOT LETTING YOU DIE.

JUST THINKING ABOUT THOSE TWO...
BUT HE'S RIGHT ABOUT KAI-STERN. HE MIGHT NEED MY HELP.
...MAKES MY KNEES WEAK.
I'M SCARED
BUT I HAVE TO GO.
YOU'RE AS QUIET AS A CAT, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE THERE..
GIL.
RATH
ALRIGHT.
..I'LL GO TO THE CAVE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST TOLD RATH TO BE CAREFUL.
I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG.
SHE DIDN'T PUT UP MUCH OF A FIGHT.
THAT'S ODD.
WHO AM I KIDDING? I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO BE CAREFUL.
BUT HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO TELL RATH THAT I'M SCARED?! HE WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

WHAT'S WRONG?
THE CAT TOO GOOD TO TUSSLE...
...
WITH A DOG LIKE ME?
GRIP
WILL I KILL MY BROTHER TOO?
IF I...
KEEP LIVING LIKE THIS...
NO MATTER.
YOU'VE COME TO KILL ME.
!!
HUH?
ウウウ

YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE, GIL!
THAT IS WHY... I MUST.
KILL YOU!
AM I MAKING SENSE?
I DON'T KNOW..
SO CONFUSED...
YOU'RE MY ENEMY, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW ANY THING.

BARL'S BLOOD WILL SOON BE ON MY HANDS.
I CAN SMELL IT.
...?

I KNOW HE'LL BE FINE, BUT...
UH...
?

SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT.
ENEMY ...
YES. I'M YOUR ENEMY, KITTY.
SO...
YOU WANT TO KILL ME, RIGHT? BECAUSE I'M YOUR ENEMY. SHEESH!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
A PUP-PET?
AM I...
NO.
IT'S WRONG...
I'M WRONG.
I'M JUST A MUG DRINKING FREAK.
A PUP-PET?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

THE BEAST? OH, IT'S PROBABLY KICKING RATH'S ASS RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
YOU HAVE TO HELP HIM!
KAI-STERN
IT'S BAD!
BUT WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THE LEGENDARY BEAST IS THE WIND DRAGON.
AND WE CAN'T BE SURE THAT IT'S EVEN IN THE CAVE.
WE MUST FIND THE LEGENDARY BEAST!
IT'S THE ONLY HOPE HE HAS!
TH-THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? RATH'LL DIE?!

CESIA? WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE DID HE GO?
KAI-STERN!
THAT'S STRANGE. I THOUGHT I SENSED SOMEONE.
WHERE DID WHO GO? THERE WAS NO ONE HERE.
CESIA
WHAT ABOUT THE BEAST?

...THE TRUTH.
I MUST TELL THEM...

I SENSE THEM AS WELL.
I MUST TELL THEM THE TRUTH...
PRINCESS ..
THEY WILL BE HERE SOON.
...ABOUT THE WIND DRAGON.
AND THE WIND DRAGON KNIGHT

!!
GRRR...
AGH!

CESIA.
LOOK. THERE'S A LIGHT DEEP WITHIN THE CAVE.
WHY HAS THAT SUDDENLY CHANGED?
I WAS SO SCARED A MOMENT AGO.
WELCOME.
YOU ARE FINALLY HERE.
I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THE TWO OF YOU.

I SENSE...
...A STRANGE FORCE.
!!
!!
SOMETHING IS PROTECTING US.
SOMETHING IS GUIDING ME. I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE IS HOLDING MY HAND.
THE AIR HERE IS DIFFEREN.

YOU'VE MET THE BEAUTY QUEEN BEFORE...
KAI-STERN?
YES
A LONG TIME AGO.
WHAT?
YOU KNOW HER?
IT HAS BEEN AWHILE...
BLUE DRAGON OFFICER KAI-STERN.
WHO IS SHE?
SHE REMINDS ME OF THE DRAGON QUEEN.
IT IS TIME YOU KNEW THE TRUTH.
THE STAR PRINCESS!
YOU SEE, A WOMAN CAME TO ME...
AND TOLD ME THAT RATH NEEDED THE WIND DRAGON'S POWER TO LIVE.
IT WAS HER...
THE STAR PRINCESS.

I AM SORRY
YOU WILL FIND NOTHING HERE.
BUT THERE IS MORE.
!!
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU SEARCH, YOU WILL NEVER FIND THE WIND DRAGON, KAI-STERN.
THE WIND DRAGON... IS NOT HERE.
WHAT? ARE YOU DRUNK, LADY?!
WHY WOULD EVERYONE BE PROTECTING THIS CAVE?
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING FROM THE DRAGON TRIBE HIDDEN HERE!

THE STAR PRINCESS
PRINCESS... I'VE LOOKED FOR THE WIND DRAGON AS YOU TOLD ME. IT HAS LED ME HERE.
TELL ME... IS THE WIND DRAGON HERE?
IS THAT WHY YOU ARE HERE?
HAVE YOU COME TO HELP US FIND THE WIND DRAGON?

WE CAN KEEP SEARCHING—
WHY WON'T WE FIND THE WIND DRAGON?
WAIT!
SHE KNOWS? WHAT I SAID TO HIS HIGHNESS?
THE WIND DRAGON... WAS KILLED...
...LONG AGO...
BY THE DEMON KING OF DUSIS, NADIL.
ITS BODY, MEAT, BONES AND EVERY LAST DROP OF ITS BLOOD...
WAS ABSORBED BY NADIL.

IT WAS HERE...
BUT THAT WAS LONG AGO.
NADIL PLACED GUARDIANS AT THE CAVE'S ENTRANCE TO GIVE THIS PLACE A SENSE OF IMPORTANCE.
YES. THE WIND DRAGON IS THE BEAST OF WHICH YOU SPEAK.
THE LEGENDARY BEAST CAN BREATHE LIFE INTO THE DEAD. IT'S HERE!
NO. IT'S THAT WHICH VERY FEW DEMONS KNOW."
NADIL? YOU MEAN NADIL'S ARMY?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, KAITEIN?
EVEN I... EVEN I WAS FOOLED.

THE WIND DRAGON IS NOW A PART OF NADIL. IT STRENGTHENS HIS POWER.
CLANK
GIL..
WHY DON'T YOU TRANS-FORM INTO A BEAST?
YOU'RE MUCH MORE POWERFUL WHEN YOU'RE THE CAT, RIGHT?
MAYBE HE CAN'T TRANS-FORM.
IS THAT IT?

I THINK I UNDERSTAND NOW. YOU WERE SURPRISED BY YOUR ACTIONS. YOU KILLED THAT GIRL WITH YOUR OWN HANDS.
AND THE THOUGHT OF THAT SICKENS YOU
FOOL.
YOU ARE PATHETIC LITTLE MAN.
!!
WHAT'S WRONG, GIL, OL' BOY? DON'T YOU STILL WANT TO KILL ME?
COME ON! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO KILL HUMANS REMEMBER? YOU COULDN'T KILL ANYONE SITTING ON YOUR BUTT LIKE THAT. WELL, MAYBE THAT'S.
!!
I WANT TO KILL
-WHO?
YOU'RE WEAK, GIL. I'M THROUGH TALKING TO YOU
!

FIRE!
I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT ME TO KILL GIL.
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
FIRE, GET OUT OF THE WAY.
...?
DON'T FORCE ME TO HURT YOU TOO.
FIRE...
AFTER ALL...!
HE'S YOUR REAL MASTER.
BUT...
THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON WHY HE MUST DIE. HE'S A DEMON NOW

BUT THEN...
"DON'T BE SCARED."
"I JUST NEED YOU TO EAT."
"Ah... IS THAT YOUR NAME?"
"IT'S WHAT THEY WERE CALLING YOU."
...I WOULD NOT HAVE MET, LAAMGARNUS!

FIRE...
YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, RIGHT?
THIS IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO.
THANK YOU.
FOR SHOWING ME ALL THAT YOU DID.
I AM GRATEFUL.
AFTER I HAD BEEN TURNED INTO A DEMON.
IT'S A SHAME WE MET WHEN WE DID.

A DEMON SEED
THAT'S WHAT TRAVIS FORMED HIM.
DON'T WORRY.
YOU'RE NOT ALONE.
..
KHAIL THE ALCHEMIST HAS BEEN BUSY. HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD DO THIS.
FIRE...
FIRE...
FIRE...
AND THE PART OF ME THAT KILLED LAAMGARNU AND FIJI...

FIRE.
NO MATTER THE CONSEQUENCES I CHOSE YOU FIRST MASTER ARATH.
TAP
!
I'M SORRY
YOUR TRUE MASTER DESERVES MY REMORSE.
BUT THE TEARS ...
WON'T COME.
I CAN'T CRY.
FIRE...
IF I HADN'T HAVE DONE THAT... OR WOULD'VE MET YOU FIRST AND NEVER HAVE BECOME A DEMON.
IT'S MY FAULT
IT'S ALL MY .
YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO HATE ME.
AFTER ALL, IT IS MY FAULT.
I... BEFORE YOU AND OR. MET.
I FORCED YOU TO BE MINE.

CREWGER?
IS THAT YOU?
WAIT!
CREWGER?!
DID CESIA REALLY BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE?
WHAT...?
グルル…
GROWL

ITS POWERS ARE SAID TO BE SIMILAR TO THE WIND DRAGON'S.
...WHAT ABOUT THE WIND STAFF?
STAR PRINCESS...
YES. THE WIND DRAGON WAS GUARDING THE STAFF.
BUT IT TOO WAS DESTROYED BY NADIL.
EVEN THE WIND STAFF...
WHAT?
DESTROYED?
...WAS DESTROYED?
THIS STAFF HAS HAD A POWERFUL WIND SPELL PLACED ON IT.
THE WIND STAFF HAS A TWIN, OF SORTS.
BUT ALL IS NOT LOST.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
ISN'T IT?
THE WIND DRAGON WAS KILLED?
HOW CAN THAT BE?
IT'S TRUE.
THEN ...
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO SAVE RATH? RATH'S GUARDIAN DRAGON HAS ALREADY LOST MOST OF ITS POWER.

DO YOU ALSO KNOW WHAT HE TOLD ME BEFORE HE DIED?
YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
THE DOG CREWGER ... GAVE YOU POWER BEFORE HE DIED.
YES. I KNOW IT ALL.
AND AS CREWGER TOLD YOU, IT WAS HIS DESTINY TO DIE.
HE ASKED YOU TO FIND THE LEGENDARY BEAST FOR RATH.
BUT INSTEAD YOU'VE SEARCHED FOR THE WIND DRAGON TO BRING CREWGER BACK TO LIFE.

IT SHOULD PROVE MORE THAN ADEQUATE.
...
PLEASE TAKE THIS.
USE IT TO HELP LORD RATH.
ANOTHER WIND STAFF?
IT'S YOURS, LADY CESIA.

STAR PRINCESS
YOU MUST TELL ME.
DID HE EVER MEET THE WIND DRAGON?
IS HE STILL ALIVE?
WAS HE KILLED BY NADIL TOO?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WIND DRAGON KNIGHT?
THE WIND DRAGON KNIGHT
THE WIND DRAGON KNIGHT WAS NOT KILLED BY NADIL.
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE
NADIL COULD NOT KILL THE WIND DRAGON KNIGHT.

YOU SEE RIGHT THROUGH EVERY-THING.
YOUR FORTUNE-TELLING POWERS ARE GREAT.
I KNOW HOW DIFFICULT IT CAN BE...
BUT PLEASE RESPECT CREWGER'S WISHES.
THERE'S ONE MORE THING I WANT KNOW.
OF COURSE.
I CAN'T EVEN CONTROL MY OWN MAGIC POWERS.
I WILL DO AS CREWGER ASKED
BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO TEACH ME HOW TO USE THIS.

HE'S GETTIN' AWAY.
I HAVE TO FIND HIM.
WHAT...
...IS THAT?

...BECAUSE THE REAL MASTER OF THE WIND DRAGON...
IS THE DEMON LORD HIMSELF.

IT..
IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW.
SO THE TRUTH IS...
...THE WIND DRAGON WILL NEVER BE ON OUR SIDE.
CESIA ...
...HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE STAFF?
NO.

NADI. IS...
...THE WIND DRAGON KNIGHT?

THE STAFF IS UNSTABLE IN ITS CURRENT STATE. IT MUST BE MADE COMPLETE FOR IT TO ACHIEVE ITS FULL POWER.
AND FOR THAT, YOU NEED ANOTHER ITEM.
THIS STAFF COULD BE AS STRONG AS THE ORIGINAL, BUT IT'S NOT COMPLETE.
IT'S CURRENTLY ONLY CAPABLE OF PRODUCING SIMPLE SPELLS ON ITS OWN.
...YOU WILL NEED TO POSSESS AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF MAGICAL STRENGTH.
YOU CAN BUT...
SO I CAN'T USE IT WITHOUT ANOTHER ITEM?!
SHOW ME WHAT I NEED TO DO.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE WHATEVER THE STAFF MAY NEED IF THERE'S ONE THING IN NOT SHORT ON ITS WIND MAGIC POWER.
BELIEVE ME, THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM.

THE ORIGINAL WIND STAFF WAS EXTREMELY POWERFUL..
THIS COPY ISN'T LACKING IN STRENGTH..
BUT IT'S HARDLY PERFECT. ITS USES ARE LIMITED.
...
IT ISN'T ALL-POWERFUL?
NOT QUITE.
?
WELL...
WELL IT WILL HAVE TO DO.
DAMN YOU NADI! IF IT ISN'T ENOUGH.
OKAY.
ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

THAT'S RIGHT!
I'M FEELING THE SAME PRESENCE I FELT WHEN CESIA AND I WERE CHASING THE ONE-EYED BEAST.
WAIT!
...WHAT?
BUT THEN...
IT TURNED OUT WE WEREN'T FOLLOWING THE REAL BEAST THAT NIGHT.
BUT THAT WOULD MEAN... THAT THING ISN'T CREWGER!

DAMMIT!
STRANGE...
I FEEL SOMETHING.
THIS IS ALL SO FAMILIAR.

THE ALCHEMIST
KHARL!
HELLO
RATH.

BUT...
THAT BEAST.
...
AH! YES, THIS IS THE REPLACEMENT I CREATED FOR MY LEFT BIRD THAT YOU RATHER RUDELY KILLED.
IT'S NAME IS SINISTORA.
WHAT DO YOU THINK? IT'S QUITE HANDSOME, NO?
OF COURSE NOT.
THINK OF IT AS BEING MY LITTLE HOMAGE TO SOMEONE THAT I HAVE MUCH RESPECT FOR...
FREAK.
...RATH ILLUZER.
IS THIS...
...SOME SORT OF SICK JOKE?

IT'S BEEN AWHILE.
THE LAST TIME WE TRADED QUIPS WAS UP IN THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ALREADY, RATH?

THAT DRAGON...
IT RUINED EVERY-THING.
AT LEAST YOU WOULDN'T BE SUFFERING NOW.
I SHOULD HAVE JUST TURNED YOU INTO A FULL DEMON, BUT I WAS ACTUALLY NAIVE ENOUGH TO ASSUME YOU'D USE YOUR BRAIN IF I LEFT IT INTACT.

YOU ARE STILL LYING TO YOURSELF, I SEE.
FACE IT. YOU ARE YOKAI.
STOP PRETENDING TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DRAGON TRIBE.
YOU'RE WRONG! I BELONG !!
YOU'VE NEVER FIT IN WITH THE DRAGON TRIBE. LOOK AT YOU. YOU SUFFER EVERY DAY YOU WEAR THAT SILLY UNIFORM. YOU DON'T BELONG.
I KNEW YOU WERE CONFUSED, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WERE CLUELESS.
TO THE DRAGON TRIBE?

DID YOU ENJOY THE PRESENT I SENT YOU?
I CREATED HIM TO BE YOUR PERFECT OPPONENT.
AGGRESSIVE, THE WAY YOU LIKE THEM. DID YOU ENJOY THE KILL?
WHAT?
YOU SENT GIL TO BE K—
YOU COULDN'T HAVE.

SINISTOR...
WAIT OVER THERE.
GO TO GARFARGY.

THAT STUPID, LITTLE LIZARD WASN'T ABLE TO STOP THAT, WAS HE? THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO SUFFER!
I WAS ABLE TO MANIPULATE YOU TO DO MY BIDDING WITH LESS EFFORT THAN IT TAKES FOR ME TO TURN WATER INTO WINE.
WHY WASTE YOUR TIME WITH THE DRAGON TRIBE?
YOU UNDERSTAND THINGS BETTER NOW?
DO YOU, RATH?
DO YOU SEE HOW MUCH POWER I POSSESS?
I KNEW IF I GAVE HIM TO SHYDEMAN, HE'D EVENTUALLY RUN INTO YOU.
BUT
I'D BE LYING IF I TOLD YOU I EXPECTED ANY OTHER OUTCOME.
HE HAD A CHANCE THOSE CLAWS WEREN'T FOR PICKING HIS NOSE, YOU KNOW
I SEE
THAT'S WHY LORD KHARL WAS IN SUCH A FOUL MOOD
IT'S ALL ONE BIG MESS, YOUR OIL.
IN A WAY, YOU ARE WHY I CREATED OIL.
I MUST ADMIT THAT WHEN YOU KILLED MY LAST SIBLING, I WAS MORE THAN A LITTLE UPSET.
SOME MIGHT CALL IT KARMA.
AND SURPRISE, SURPRISE, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.

YOU'RE DERANGED, ALCHEMIST.
NO.
IT'S YOUR FAULT.
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO MADE ME SUFFER.
I FEEL THIS WAY BECAUSE YOU ALTERED ME.
I DO NOT SUFFER BECAUSE OF THE DRAGON LORD AND THE DRAGON TRIBE.

YOU ARE A DEMON
YOU BELONG WITH ME.

THOSE WEREN'T THE MEMORIES I WANTED YOU TO RECALL.
TRICKY THING, MEMORY SPELLS.
RATH...
...
THAT'S UNFORTUNATE.
WAKE UP, RATH...
YOU'RE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE DRAGON TRIBE.
NEVER PLANNED TO..
TELL ME.
WHY DO YOU SIDE WITH THE DRAGON TRIBE?

YOU POISONED MY BLOOD.
I REMEMBER THINGS NOW.
I WAS THE MOST PSYCHOTIC DEMON IN DUSIS.

IMPOS-
SIBLE..
I'M BEING CONTROLLED? LIKE GIL?
!!
SWISH
LET'S GO!!
IT COULD BE TRUE.
I'M BOUND TO THIS STUPID THING.
WITHOUT IT, I LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS. BUT WITH IT, I'M SCARED THAT MY DEMONIC POWERS WILL BECOME TOO STRONG.
I'M NOT A PRISONER!
BUT THEN, WHY CAN'T I LEAVE THE DRAGON TRIBE?

YES.
RATH DOESN'T KNOW I FOUND OUT...
THEN YOU KNOW.
THE LIGHT DRAGON AMULET?
I RUSHED INTO THE NEAREST CAVE...
WHERE I FOUND RATH BEING HELD CAPTIVE BY A YOKAI.
THE YOKAI WAS INFUSING RATH WITH ALL SORTS OF POWERS, HUMAN AND DEMON BOTH.
HE WAS BEING TURNED INTO A DEMON.

MUCH LIKE THIS SNOW.
IT STARTED SNOWING IN THE MOUNTAINS.
THERE WAS A TIME THAT RATH TOOK FIRE AND CREWGER WITH HIM ON A DEMON HUNT, BUT DIDN'T COME BACK.
AS I WAS WANDERING ALONG THE MOUNTAINSIDE, I FOUND RATH'S NECKLACE.
WE LOOKED EVERY-WHERE.
WE SEARCHED DESPER-ATELY FOR HIM.

RATH'S GUARDIAN DRAGON IS NOT RIKE.
BUT THE LIGHT DRAGON?
ABOUT WHAT?
THE LIGHT DRAGON?
YOU CANNOT TELL RATH.
AND IT'S SOMETHING ONLY THE DRAGON LORD AND I KNOW ABOUT
THAT'S WHY I BEGAN MY SEARCH FOR THE WIND DRAGON.
BUT...
WHERE IS IT?
AN UNMARKED GRAVE THAT HAS LONG SINCE BEEN LOST. AT LEAST TO ALL BUT RATH.
RATH BURIED WHAT WAS LEFT OF ITS BODY IN A GRAVE.
ONLY ITS SOUL REMAINS.

THAT'S WHEN THE STAR PRINCESS.
FIRST APPEARED
I WAS ABLE TO RESCUE HIM, BUT RATH WAS OUT COLD.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRIED TO WAKE HIM, HE WOULDN'T STIR.
THE LIGHT DRAGON?
THE PRINCESS AND THE LIGHT DRAGON SAVED RATH'S LIFE.
THEY TOLD ME.
THAT RATH'S TRUE GUARDIAN DRAGON, THE LIGHT DRAGON, WAS WEAKENED PROTECTING RATH FROM THE DEMONIC POWERS.
WE NEEDED THE WIND DRAGON TO GIVE THE LIGHT DRAGON MORE POWER.

RATH WENT TO A GRAVE WITH FLOWERS!
IT MUST BE THE LIGHT DRAGON'S GRAVE.

THAT MEANS...
THAT GRAVE!
A GRAVE?

LORD KHARL!
I KNOW HE WAS JUST A STUPID CLONE, BUT I DON'T EVER WANT TO WATCH YOU DIE AGAIN, EVER!
RATH KILLED IT!
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY DOUBLE?
SUCH MISGUIDED ANGER CAN BE DANGEROUS, CAREFACY.
I WAS READY TO KILL HIM!
WHEN IT HAPPENED I GOT SO MAD THAT I ALMOST LOST IT.
HMM
SO I WAS KILLED BY RATH, EH?
I SEE...
INTERESTING...
DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER?
OKAY.
FROM NOW ON I'LL HAVE ONE OF MY DEMONS GO AND SPY ON HIM.

WELCOME BACK.
TELL ME ABOUT RATH.
ALSO...
HE THOUGHT IT WAS A PRANK.
HE LOOKED SURPRISED WHEN HE SAW SINISTORA.
...HE CALLED HIMSELF THE MOST PSYCHOTIC DEMON IN DUSIS.

Dragon Knights

10

TOKYOPOP

In Volume 10:

With Gil's blood on his hands and Khart's words still haunting his mind, Rath returns to the lodge in a foul mood. A mood that fails to improve when he discovers that Shydeman and Shyrendora have kidnapped Cesia. Vowing to find her, Rath's quest leads him to a confrontation with a demon he had hoped to never see again.

Unable to assist the Dragon Knight of Fire, Kaistern returns to the Dragon Kingdom, hoping that Rath will find his way home. It's not the homecoming he expects. An alarming announcement regarding the Dragon Lord's health leads to a frantic search for the wandering Raseleane. But will they find her in time?

Plus, the battle lines have been drawn, how take a look at both sides of the conflict, with two exciting side stories!

Mineko Ohkami

YOU TOLD GIL AND BIERREZ THAT YOU WANTED HIM FOR RESEARCH.
BUT YOU'VE GIVEN UP MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO CAPTURE HIM YOURSELF.
LORD KHARL, WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOUR PLANS FOR RATH?
RATH IS A PRECIOUS, PRECIOUS DEMON. HE'S TOO GOOD FOR THE DRAGON TRIBE.
I'M WAITING, CARFAKOY.
YOU SEE, I NEED RATH TO REALIZE THAT ON HIS OWN. AND HE'S CLOSE.
CARFAKOY. HE'S CLOSE.